

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 10, 2010
AMENDED IN SENATE JANUARY 25, 2010
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 29, 2009
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 1, 2009

SENATE BILL

No. 376

Introduced by Senator Simitian

February 26, 2009

An act to add Section 21090.2 to, and to add Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 25250) to Division 15 of, the Public Resources Code, relating to energy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 376, as amended, Simitian. Energy: State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission: natural gas.

(1) The Warren-Alquist State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Act (act) establishes the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (Energy Commission) and requires the commission to prepare a biennial integrated energy policy report containing specified information related to major energy trends and issues facing the state, as well as a biennial energy policy review. The act requires the commission to certify sufficient sites and related facilities that are required to provide a supply of electricity sufficient to accommodate projected demand for power statewide.

This bill would enact the Liquefied Natural Gas Market Assessment Act and would require the Energy Commission, as a component of the integrated energy policy report, to conduct a study of the need for liquefied natural gas imports to meet the state's energy demand. The bill would also require the Energy Commission, prior to a permit being

issued by the State Lands Commission or the California Coastal Commission to license a liquefied natural gas facility on the California coast, to complete a liquefied natural gas assessment report as part of the integrated energy policy report, containing specified information.

This

~~The bill would create the Liquefied Natural Gas Market Assessment Act and would~~ also require a liquefied natural gas terminal project applicant to include in the application evidence that it has consulted with the United States Department of Defense and its impacted service components. For a project involving the construction or operation of a liquefied natural gas terminal for which an application submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) or the United States Maritime Administration has not been deemed data adequate on or before January 1, 2011, and the application is being processed for further action by the FERC or the United States Maritime Administration, an environmental impact report prepared for that project by a lead agency would be required to contain specified information. By requiring a local agency to prepare an environmental impact report that contains specified information, the bill would increase the level of service provided by a local agency, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program.

The bill would require the Energy Commission, on or before July 1, 2011, to create a matrix on its Internet Web site containing information related to the construction and operation of a liquefied natural gas terminal project, and quarterly updates would be required.

The bill would also require the commission to impose a fee upon a liquefied natural gas terminal project applicant proposing a LNG terminal that would be subject to the bill's provisions and bill would authorize the commission to expend the fees, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to implement those provisions.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) The state has a critical role in decisions regarding the siting
4 and design of new onshore and offshore infrastructure for the
5 importation of liquefied natural gas with regard to public health,
6 safety, and the environment.

7 (b) California has a rich history of innovative and strong
8 environmental laws and should continue to strive for the best
9 protections possible.

10 (c) Utilities in California are required to meet new demand
11 through energy efficiency programs before acquiring other sources
12 of electricity.

13 (d) Accelerating the use of renewable energy resources wherever
14 feasible and ensuring a diverse and affordable portfolio of fuel
15 sources may minimize supply interruptions and increase reliability.

16 (e) Decisions regarding the importation of liquefied natural gas
17 should be based on a comprehensive review of current and
18 projected natural gas supply and demand in California.

19 (f) The possible importation of liquefied natural gas should be
20 reviewed as part of the state's integrated energy policy report,
21 which contains an overview of major energy trends and issues
22 facing the state, including supply, demand, and price.

23 SEC. 2. Section 21090.2 is added to the Public Resources Code,
24 to read:

25 21090.2. (a) In addition to any other requirements under this
26 division, for a project involving the construction or operation of
27 an onshore or offshore liquefied natural gas terminal in California
28 for which an application submitted to the Federal Energy
29 Regulatory Commission or the United States Maritime
30 Administration has not been deemed data adequate on or before
31 January 1, 2011, and the application is being processed for further
32 action by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or the United
33 States Maritime Administration, an environmental impact report
34 shall include all of the following:

35 (1) A comparative analysis of feasible alternative project
36 technologies pursuant to Section 15126.6 of Title 14 of the
37 California Code of Regulations.

(2) An analysis of potential disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.

(3) A full life-cycle analysis of the impacts of greenhouse gases.

(b) This section shall not be construed as a limitation on the power of a public agency to otherwise disapprove the project pursuant to any other provision of law.

(c) This section shall not be construed as a limitation to comply with any other requirements of this division or any other provision of law.

SEC. 3. Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 25250) is added to Division 15 of the Public Resources Code, to read:

CHAPTER 3.5. LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS MARKET ASSESSMENT
ACT

25250. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the Liquefied Natural Gas Market Assessment Act.

25250.5. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(a) “Liquefied natural gas” or “LNG” means natural gas cooled to minus 259 degrees Fahrenheit so that it forms a liquid at approximately atmospheric pressure.

(b) “Onshore or offshore liquefied natural gas terminal in California” means facilities located onshore or offshore in California, designed to receive liquefied natural gas from oceangoing vessels, including those facilities required for storage and regasification of the liquefied natural gas, the marine vessels associated with these facilities, and any new pipelines, including, but not limited to, all new pipelines from these offshore or onshore terminals to shore and facilities necessary for the transmission of the regasified natural gas from those facilities, to the point of interconnection with any existing natural gas transportation or distribution system.

25251. (a) *As a component of the integrated energy policy report, the commission shall conduct a study of the need for liquefied natural gas imports to meet the state’s energy demand.*

(b) *The study shall assess all of the following:*

1 (1) *The future demand for natural gas in California, including,*
2 *but not limited to, natural gas as an alternative transportation*
3 *fuel.*

4 (2) *The future supply of natural gas in California available from*
5 *domestic production and imported into California through*
6 *interstate pipelines, the supply available from domestic production*
7 *within California, and the supply available from foreign production*
8 *and imported into California through international pipelines from*
9 *Mexico and Canada, including any liquefied natural gas terminal*
10 *proposed to be built outside the state and the nation that would*
11 *be the source of natural gas imported into the state.*

12 (3) *All supplemental sources of natural gas and natural gas*
13 *alternatives that can be reasonably expected to be available to*
14 *meet projected energy demand, including, but not limited to,*
15 *conservation, energy efficiency programs, and renewable energy*
16 *resources.*

17 (4) *Projections of the price for natural gas under reasonable*
18 *supply and demand circumstances.*

19 (c) *The report shall consider the impact of reducing electricity*
20 *derived from coal pursuant to Chapter 3 (commencing with Section*
21 *8340) of Division 4.1 of the Public Utilities Code, and the potential*
22 *of demand reduction opportunities, including, but not limited to,*
23 *the upgrading and retrofitting of energy infrastructure, the role*
24 *of renewable energy, and greater efficiency in building codes.*

25 (d) *The report shall include an analysis of what impact new*
26 *fossil fuel infrastructure will have on mandates on investor owned*
27 *utilities under any provision of law, including, but not limited to,*
28 *the California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program, Article*
29 *16 (commencing with Section 399.11) of Chapter 2.3 of Part 1 of*
30 *Division 1 of the Public Utilities Code.*

31 (e) *The commission shall update its study of the need for*
32 *liquefied natural gas imports at least 60 days prior to the hearing*
33 *conducted by the State Lands Commission or the California*
34 *Coastal Commission prior to issuing a permit to license a liquefied*
35 *natural gas facility on the California coast, if the commission has*
36 *not issued an integrated energy policy report within 180 days of*
37 *the hearing.*

38 (f) (1) *A person who complies with paragraph (2) may challenge*
39 *the findings of the liquified natural gas market assessment report*
40 *by filing a writ of mandate for review pursuant to Section 25901.*

1 (2) *To file a writ of mandate pursuant to paragraph (1), an*
2 *aggrieved person shall have appeared, in person or through a*
3 *representative, at one of the commission's public hearings, in*
4 *person or in writing, and informed the commission of his or her*
5 *concerns, or for good cause have been unable to do either.*

6 ~~25251.~~

7 25252. On or before July 1, 2011, the commission shall create
8 a matrix on its Internet Web site that meets, to the extent that data
9 are publicly available, all of the following requirements:

10 (a) The matrix shall be in a format that allows the public to
11 contrast and compare each liquefied natural gas terminal, either
12 existing or proposed, that is located onshore or offshore anywhere
13 in California. The matrix shall also include information from
14 facilities located in Alaska, Canada, the west coast of the
15 continental United States, and the west coast of Mexico including
16 Baja California that may provide natural gas to California.

17 (b) It shall include a summary of environmental impacts,
18 mitigation measures, and alternatives discussed in the
19 environmental impact report (EIR) completed for the project, along
20 with an online link to the EIR. For projects outside the state and
21 nation a link to an equivalent environmental review document.

22 (c) For each existing and proposed land-based or offshore
23 liquefied natural gas terminal project, the matrix shall include the
24 following information: project location, project owner, project
25 Web site, project contact, project description, average natural gas
26 production capacity in cubic feet per day, the peak natural gas
27 production capacity in cubic feet per day, liquefied natural gas and
28 natural gas storage capacity, if any, the approximate project cost,
29 projected online date, and the siting process applicable to the
30 project.

31 (d) The matrix shall be updated as information becomes
32 available and no less than quarterly and shall include the major
33 project components and the potential environmental impacts
34 associated with each land-based and offshore natural gas import
35 terminal project proposal that has filed an application or has
36 publicly announced plans to build a land-based or offshore
37 terminal.

38 (e) The commission shall post a new application for approval
39 to build and operate a natural gas import terminal in the state to
40 the matrix within 30 days after the filing of the application.

1 ~~25252.~~

2 25253. An applicant for the construction or operation of a
3 liquefied natural gas terminal project shall provide evidence in its
4 application that it has consulted with the United States Department
5 of Defense and its impacted service components, and include within
6 the application a description of the consultation with regard to
7 potential impacts upon national security, including potential
8 impacts on the land, sea, and airspace identified by the Department
9 of Defense and its impacted service components, for conducting
10 operations or training, or for the research, development, testing,
11 and evaluation of weapons, sensors, and tactics.

12 25254. *The commission shall impose a fee upon a liquefied*
13 *natural gas terminal project applicant proposing a LNG terminal*
14 *that is subject to being evaluated and ranked pursuant to this*
15 *article. The fee shall cover the costs that may be incurred by the*
16 *commission to implement this article, including the costs of any*
17 *temporary personnel or consultants. The commission may expend*
18 *the fees collected pursuant to this section, upon appropriation by*
19 *the Legislature, to implement this article.*

20 SEC. 4. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
21 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
22 this act provides for offsetting savings to local agencies or school
23 districts that result in no net costs to the local agencies or school
24 districts, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government
25 Code.